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Dozier ransom talks on?

Rome (UPI)—Italy's state radio said yesterday that the Central Intelligence Agency is conducting secret negotiations with Red Brigades guerrillas who are demanding a \$9.6 million ransom for kidnaped U.S. Army Brig. Gen. James Dozier. But U.S. and Italian officials denied the report.

The radio report said that there are indications that secret negotiations are under way in Geneva between the Red Brigades and representatives of the Dozier family and the CIA.

The report—and the fact that it was carried by the state-run radio—caused a minor uproar and was quickly denied by the U.S. State Department, Italian police and officials at the Nato base in Verona where Dozier, 50, was stationed before his abduction Dec. 17. Both the United States and Italy have formally declared that they will not negotiate with the Red Brigades for Dozier's release.

A Red Brigades communique released Monday said that the group would never negotiate for Dozier's release. But the state radio report said that such denials could be part of the negotiating framework.

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